[12th March 1929

Reforms

Government Memorandum to the Simon Commission.

*1717 *Q*.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any memorandum on reforms has been presented on behalf of the Government of Madras, to the Simon Commission;

(*b*) whether the Reserved side and the Transferred side have presented separate memoranda;

(*c*) whether there have been any dissenting notes by any members of the Government;

(*d*) whether the Government will place on the table of this House the memorandum or memoranda presented to the Simon Commission;

(*e*) whether any oral evidence has been offered by the Government to the Simon Commission; and

(*f*) if so, who are the persons examined and what is their evidence?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) This question is at present under the consideration of the Government.

(*e*) & (*f*) The following official witnesses appeared before the Commission:—

Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, Chief Secretary.
Mr. C. A. Souter, Secretary, Public Works and Labour Department.
Mr. H. A. Watson, Finance Secretary.
Mr. Hilton Brown, Secretary, Local Self-Government Department.
Mr. Hamilton, Inspector-General of Police.
Mr. Cunningham, Commissioner of Police, Madras.
Mr. Slater, Commissioner of Labour.
Mr. S. V. Ramamurti, I.C.S.

The function of these witnesses was to supplement the information given in the Government descriptive memoranda by facts within their knowledge and they were instructed that if they expressed views or opinions they should confine themselves to personal views or opinions and not purport to speak on behalf of the Government. No record of what any of these witnesses said has been supplied to this Government.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know why the Government hesitate to place the memorandum submitted by them to the Simon Commission on the table of this House?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The answer is given in the paper, Sir."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Yes, Sir, with reference to what is given in the answer to clause (*d*), I am asking this question. Why should there be any consideration in placing the Government's memorandum before the Members of this House?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Each of us may have our own opinion as to that, but there the fact remains that the Government have not been able to come to a decision in the matter yet."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know with reference to the answer to clause (*d*), whether the memorandum submitted is a joint one of both the Reserved and Transferred side ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The answer given is 'No'. There is only one memorandum."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The answer given with regard to the question whether the Reserved side and the Transferred side have presented separate memoranda is 'No'. Does it mean that only one memorandum was submitted—that jointly by the Reserved and Transferred Halves ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" One memorandum was submitted by the Government as a whole."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know whether the Transferred Half has taken any part in preparing that memorandum ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" They are parties to the whole thing. Who actually prepared the memorandum is another matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, in view of the fact that the memorandum is believed to have appeared word for word in the *Hindu*, the reason why the Government is still considering this matter of placing it on the table of this House ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I am very sorry I am not in a position to add to what is already on the paper."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the answer to clause (*c*), may I know whether it is not a fact that on the position of Ministers under the new Provincial Autonomous Government the opinion of the Chief Minister differed fundamentally from that of the hon. the Leader of the House and whether it is not a matter on which there has been dissension between the Reserved and the Transferred Halves ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Not that I am aware of."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Leader of the House whether he will be pleased to say whether the memorandum published in the *Hindu* is a correct copy of the memorandum presented to the Commission ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I have not read it, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the memorandum has not been compared by any officer of the Secretariat with the *Hindu* ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Not that I am aware of; not under my instructions."

Government memorandum to the Simon Commission.

* 1718 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the report or recommendations of this Government to the Simon Commission on the question of reforms ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1717.